

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending in the present application. The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-8. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0178034 to Gardner et al. (hereinafter Gardner) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0016825 to Pugliese et al. (hereinafter Pugliese) and further in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-215264 to Buerii Japan:KK (hereinafter Buerii). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Gardner presents a rationalization of business in an airline travel distribution enterprise through combining the sales transaction and usage transaction for a centralized transaction. Pugliese proposes a paperless airline seat reservation system implemented through an electronic business system. Buerii proposes a system to separate telephone charges on a bill.

In contrast, the present application proposes a detailed business treatment system for mileage service between an airline company and an enterprise which desires to obtain credit for the mileage for all airline trips by its employees paid for by the enterprise.

Comparing Gardner, Pugliese, and Buerii, with the present application, the applied references do not describe a distinction as claimed herein regarding to whom air mileage belongs, for instance, to a passenger of an airline company or to an enterprise employing the passenger.

In particular, claim 1 relates to a system for performing a mileage service depending on a distance traveled by a vehicle. Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, mileage information storing means for ***subtracting miles included in said boarding information from accumulated miles of said boarding customer if said boarding customer is employed by the corporation registered for the***

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corporate mileage service based on said corporation vs. individual relationship information transmitted from said corporation vs. individual relationship information database device, **adding the subtracted miles included in said boarding information to miles of the corporation**, and reflecting the result of the subtraction and the addition of the miles included in said boarding information in said mileage information database.

The Examiner admits that neither of Gardner nor Pugliese disclose the feature of subtracting the miles from an account and adding them to another account. (Office Action; page 5, line 10). The Examiner asserts that this feature is disclosed in Buerii. However, Buerii apparently refers only to a separation of a phone bill into business charges and personal charges. (Buerii; Abstract). There is no reference to subtracting anywhere in Buerii, and only a reference to discounting in terms of preparing two discount bills. (Buerii; Abstract). Buerii does not disclose, or even suggest, subtracting miles **from** a boarding customer and **adding the subtracted miles to a corporate account**. Therefore none of the cited references disclose the feature of subtracting the miles from an account and adding them to another account. Since none of the references disclose, or even suggest, this feature, the combination of the references does not render the subject matter of claim 1 obvious.

Additionally, the Examiner suggests that the modification of Gardner and Pugliese with Buerii is obvious “to allow corporate to receive the award because corporate is justified to receive the benefit and not the employee/boarder.” (Office Action; page 6, lines 4-10). However, there is no indication that this motivation to combine the references arises from any of the cited references. This purported motivation to combine the references appears to be impermissible hindsight reasoning. None of the references provide support for combining the references, which arise from different fields of endeavor. There is no indication why a person skilled in the art of

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airline travel (as in Gardner) or electronic ticketing (Pugliese) would be motivated to combine the disclosures of either of those references with a bill processing system for a telephone charge, as discussed in Buerii. Since there is no motivation to combine the references, the combination is improper and the claim is allowable.

Claim 7 recites a similar subtracting feature as recited in claim 1, and therefore claim 7 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 2 relates to a system for performing a mileage service depending on a distance traveled by a vehicle covered by the mileage service. The system according to claim 2 includes, *inter alia*, means for determining whether miles earned by a usage of the mileage service or the payment of the consideration belong to the corporation or the individual, based on said selection, and means for storing the earned miles selectively.

None of the cited reference discloses, or even suggests, this feature, and therefore, the references, alone or in combination, do not render claim 2 unpatentable.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2 is allowable. Claims 5 and 6 recite a similar determining feature as recited in claim 2, and therefore claims 5 and 6 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2 is allowable.

Claim 8 relates to a method of performing a mileage service depending on a distance traveled by a vehicle covered by the mileage service. The method according to claim 8, includes the feature of, *inter alia*, if the vehicle covered by the mileage service is reserved for the business of the corporation, giving earned miles to the corporation, and if the vehicle covered by the mileage service is not reserved for the business of the corporation, giving earned miles to the employee.

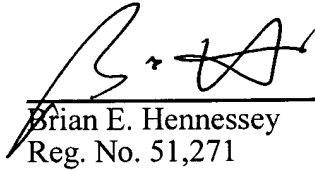
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It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited reference discloses, or even suggests, this feature, and therefore, the references, alone or in combination, do not render claim 8 unpatentable.

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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